

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION OCTOBER 3 ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER

REF: A) STATE 214580; B) STATE 215664; C) STATE 215552

1. U.S. REP INTRODUCED U.S. VIEWS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN OCTOBER 3, SPC UNDER "STATEMENTS ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS". U.S. MISSION HAD ALREADY DISTRIBUTED TO SPC MEMBERS A PAPER ON U.S. VIEWS CONSISTING OF A SLIGHTLY ADJUSTED VERSION OF PARA 3 TO 9 OF REF A AND PARA 1 OF REF B. U.S. REP NOTED SEVERAL OF THE POINTS IN THE U.S. PAPER, AND HOPED THE SPC COULD CONSIDER THE US SUGGESTIONS EXPEDITIOUSLY, PARTICULARLY THOSE SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING NON-INCREASE AGREEMENT AND COMMON CEILING, WHERE WE HOPED FOR NATO GUIDANCE BY OCTOBER 15, (PER REF C).

2. MILITARY COMMITTEE REP (GROUP CAPTAIN SMITH) REPORTED ON THE PROGRESS OF THE MBFR WORKING GROUP PAPER ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER,
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WHICH HE THOUGHT WG WOULD APPROVE NEXT WEEK. REGARDING NON-INCREASE, WG PAPER CONSIDERS THIS TECHNICALLY ACHIEVABLE, BUT THERE REMAINS ONE ELEMENT OF DOUBT: SOME COUNTRIES MAY HAVE PLANS TO INCREASE AIR FORCE MANPOWER WHICH NON-INCREASE AGREEMENT

MIGHT IMPEDE. REGARDING REDUCTIONS, HE WAS CONCERNED THAT NATO NOT GO TOO QUICKLY INTO THIS ISSUE. U.S. HAS OBVIOUSLY DONE ITS HOMEWORK REGARDING ITS OWN FORCES AND FOUND REDUCTIONS OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER TOLERABLE. HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE MADE SUCH STUDIES, AND THE WG COULD NOT EXAMINE THIS ISSUE UNTIL EACH COUNTRY HAD STUDIED THE EFFECT OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS ON NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT AND CAPABILITIES. THIS POSTULATES LEAVING THE QUESTION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER REDUCTIONS UNTIL LATER.

3. NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) NOTED THAT THE U.S. PROPOSAL DID NOT CALL FOR REDUCTIONS, EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF THE U.S., BUT THE POSSIBLE U.S. CUT IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER OF 15 PERCENT WOULD SET PRECEDENT FOR OTHER ALLIES. NETHERLANDS WISHED TO HEAR WHETHER U.S. THINKS A 15 PERCENT CUT IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER IS SUSTAINABLE WITHOUT A REDUCTION IN NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT.

4. FRG REP (RANTZAU) SAID HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE U.S. SUGGESTIONS, SINCE THEY WERE SO RECENT, AND SINCE THE WG PAPER WAS NOT YET FINISHED. HE WAS CERTAIN HE WOULD HAVE NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THE U.S. PROPOSALS BY MONDAY OCTOBER 7. SMITH ALSO THOUGHT DISCUSSION ON MONDAY PREMATURE. SPC AGREED TO EXAMINE U.S. PROPOSALS ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, EXCEPT FOR NON-INCREASE, WHICH AS NOTED BELOW, IS ON AGENDA FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 7.

5. "POSSIBLE NON-CIRCUMVENTION MEASURES FOR AIR FORCE MANPOWER" WAS A REGULAR ITEM ON SPC AGENDA OCTOBER 3, PER SPC AGREEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 30. CHAIRMAN (KASTL) ASKED FOR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. SINCE NO ALLY SPOKE, U.S. REP MADE BRIEF STATEMENT. HE SUGGESTED SPC ADOPT A SUGGESTION MADE BY BELGIAN REP AT A PREVIOUS MEETING TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE SUBJECT TO "NON-INCREASE MEASURES", RATHER THAN "NON- CIRCUMVENTION MEASURES". HE NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A MEASURE, WHICH WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES. HE SAID THE U.S. WAS VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING ALLIED VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT. THE MECHANICS OF DRAFTING
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GUIDANCE TO THE AHG SHOULD BE QUITE SIMPLE, I.E. PERHAPS A SIMPLE ADDITION TO THE PRESENT GUIDANCE TO THE AHG ON THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT CONTAINED IN C-M(74)30(REVISED). HE THOUGHT SPC MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO START DRAFTING GUIDANCE ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7. SMITH POINTED OUT THAT THE WG REPORT CALLS FOR NATIONAL FORECASTS OF LIKELY CHANGES IN AIR MANPOWER WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDED BY NON-INCREASE AGREEMENT OR APPLYING MANPOWER COMMON CEILING TO EMBRACE BOTH GROUND AND AIR FORCES. HE THOUGHT SPC WOULD NEED THIS INFORMATION, WHICH GOVERNMENTS MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE EITHER TO SPC OR WORKING GROUP. U.S. REP SAID ALLIED GOVERNMENTS MIGHT TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION IN THEIR INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR SPC REPS AT THE MONDAY MEETING.

6. COMMENT: NAC COULD AUTHORIZE INCLUSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE NON-INCREASE AGREEMENT BY ONE OF TWO POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION III (NON-INCREASE OF FORCES COMMITMENT) IN C-M(74) 30(REVISED). SUB-PARA A OF SECTION III PRESENTLY READS "THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS ON EACH SIDE WOULD AGREE THAT THE OVERALL AGGREGATE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER (PERMANENTLY STATIONED) IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE INCREASED....ETC." NAC COULD EXTEND THIS TO INCLUDE AIR FORCE MANPOWER BY INSERTING AFTER "GROUND FORCE" ONE OF TWO PHRASES: EITHER "AND AIR FORCE" OR "AND THE OVERALL AGGREGATE AIR FORCE". THE CHOICE BETWEEN THE TWO PHRASES WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER ALLIES WANTED A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT FOR GROUND FORCE AND AIR FORCE MANPOWER TAKEN TOGETHER, OR SEPARATE NON-INCREASE LIMITATIONS ON EACH. MISSION REQUESTS GUIDANCE BY SPC ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 ON WHETHER MODIFICATION OF C-M(74)30(REVISED) IN THIS MANNER MEETS U.S. OBJECTIVES REGARDING INCLUSION OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT, AND IF SO, WHICH VERSION OF ADDED LANGUAGE IS U.S. PREFERENCE.

7. REGARDING THE FOUR OTHER U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER, MISSION BELIEVES IT CAN BEST WORK FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT IF WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC U.S. PROPOSALS, AND U.S. RATIONALE. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THIS WOULD REDUCE RISK OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER BECOMING BROADLY FOCUSED EXERCISE. SUCH GUIDANCE WOULD BE USEFUL PRIOR TO SPC MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO BUWALDA'S QUESTION ON IMPACT OF U.S. 15 PERCENT REDUCTION ON NUMBERS OF AIRCRAFT, AND AS REQUESTED IN PARAS 8 AND 9 ABOVE.
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